The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian.

No. 2. AUGUST, 1907. PRICE ONE PENNY. 1/6 per annum, post free.

Contents.

	PAGE
Re-Organisation *(Communicated)* ...	1
Dr. Sproull on Lectures to Women ...	2
A Free Faculty of Theology	4
Obituary:—Mrs. Rankin.	5
REPORTS:—	
Belfast: First Presbyterian Church; Cairncastle; Dromore; Glenarm; Larne; Mountpottinger	6-7
Marriage	7

RE-ORGANISATION.

[COMMUNICATED.]

DANIEL O'CONNELL, the famous Irish agitator, used to preface his speeches to the vast audiences that came under the spell of his eloquence by saying, "This is a great day for Ireland." However that may have been as regards political Ireland, it is certain that the 19th of June, 1907, was a great day for the Irish Non-Subscribing Church, and deserves to be marked with a red letter in its calendar, for on that day the divisions and distrusts which so long exercised a baleful influence over its heretofore peaceful and harmonious existence were adjusted, and its lost unity restored.

Half-a-century has elapsed since the apple of discord was thrown in which has wrought us so much harm, provoking bitter controversies, raising personal animosities, separating friends, and so paralysing all efforts to promote the prosperity of our Church. For years this internecine warfare, forming the darkest page in the history of the Non-Subscribing Body, proceeded without a check, alienating friends, giving the luke-warm an excuse for secession, and creating joy in the camp of our opponents. But it would be idle and unprofitable to re-awaken sleeping memories of a painful past that cannot be recalled. The combatants on both sides in those unhappy wranglings, as well as their sympathisers, have all passed "that bourne whence no traveller returns," and so we will let the dead past bury its dead. Time that heals most wounds and softens most asperities has been gradually doing its work of kindness and conciliation, and the new generation, if less highly gifted than their predecessors, are little disposed to revive former quarrels, but "forgetting the things that are behind," desire with St. Paul "to press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," and hence for some time past, there has been a growing feeling—nay a strong yearning—in favour of a closer union of our few scattered Churches and people, which, though few they be, when united are comparatively strong, but when divided indubitably weak.

As an evidence of this pervading spirit, some few years ago the Northern Presbytery of Antrim rejoined the ancient Presbytery from which it had seceded, the auspicious event seeming

to prefigure the dawn of a brighter day for our Church, and in natural sequence, the idea of re-organisation having occurred to the acute mind of Dr. Campbell, thanks to the labours of the Organisation Committee appointed by the Association, the hearty co-operation of our ministers, and the readiness of the congregations to accept the new scheme when put before them, we are once more a united Church. But by the new arrangement we have more than regained what we had lost. Hitherto the Presbytery of Antrim and the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster, comprising three Presbyteries, were two independent Church Bodies, neither having authority over the other, and they agreed to meet in a voluntary Association, called of late years "The Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians & Other Free Christians," but the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland is *a Church* exercising jurisdiction over its component parts, and the Presbytery of Antrim now takes its place side by side with the other Presbyteries, in due submission to the directions and decisions of the Association, which is the superior court.

It is to be hoped, when the details of the New Church Scheme have been perfected, that the same unanimity will be shewn in carrying out its rules and regulations, as was in evidence at the late meeting when it was accepted, and that the officers and laity in general of the several congregations will do their part in striving to make their Church a success, and to this end forbear to bring individual opinion or personal caprice into conflict with the will of the majority, for all experience tells us that no good work can be accomplished in Church or State except by loyal acceptance of the law.

It remains only to hope that our reconstituted Church may prove equal to its opportunities, and worthy of being enrolled as an instrument for good on the annals of this our favoured land; that it may do no mean part in promoting the glory of God and the well-being of man on the basis of our simple and rational faith, which says that "to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." The present writer cannot hope to see it crowned with that measure of success which he fondly desires it to attain, for the hands of the clock warn him that the day is far spent and the night is at hand, but he can and does wish a heartfelt "God-speed" to the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

DR. SPROULL ON LECTURES TO WOMEN.

Perhaps at no time in the history of the world has the question of social reform engaged so much attention as it now does. The more deeply the question is studied the more it is being realised that the character of its women is one of the most important factors in the prosperity and well-being of a nation.

For this reason when I was asked by the convener on behalf of the Education Committee of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland to prepare two lectures, one on "The Care of the Healthy Child," and the other, on "The Responsibilities of Womanhood," one or both to be given in Belfast and neighbouring towns, I was very pleased to undertake the work believing it not impossible but that some good might thereby be done.

The place that a wife and mother fills in the home is one of supreme importance and of great responsibility; and the highest honour is due to those who fill the position well. There is perhaps no task in life comparable in importance with that assumed by wives and mothers, and they ought especially to realise that in order to do their work well, with best results, some knowledge is necessary, some training and judgment; and indeed the more they learn the more they may find there is to learn.

If these lectures have made even a very few women grasp the fact that their duties to themselves, to their husbands and to their children are not all of them things which may be learned by intuition, but that, on the contrary, they require a great deal of thought, together with a knowledge of human nature with its possibilities, its needs,

its limitations, then it cannot be that the lectures were organised in vain.

A chief difficulty in the carrying on of such a work is to get the people one wants most to reach to come and listen. These unfortunately do not always come, and the direct appeal therefore is often not so complete as it might be. But even so it ought to be borne in mind that each individual woman who thinks on these questions becomes a centre for the diffusion of knowledge and it may happen in this way that a greater good is accomplished than one can tell.

Any value the lectures might have in themselves was much increased by the fact that they were not merely "Health Lectures," but were given in connection with a Church as a part of its moral and religious teaching of its members, showing them that true religion is responsible for the bodies as well as for the souls of men. Nothing could have exceeded the kindness with which the lectures were received. People listened patiently to much that many of them must have already known; everything possible was done to make the giving of the lectures easy and pleasant, and I have many happy memories of acquaintances made during the fortnight of my lecturing experience. My only regret is felt when I think that the work might have been so much better done by another.

We append some remarks made by ladies who were present at the lectures, and these are set forth in the order of the places at which the lectures were delivered.

Templepatrick—Mrs. Orr writes:—"I really must congratulate you on the success of the lecture which I, and indeed everyone, enjoyed thoroughly. First of all the chairwoman, Mrs. Turner, said only what was necessary to introduce the matter, a fact alas! often overlooked by many chair-people at country meetings. The subject was most carefully and delicately treated, and after the first shyness of hearing the sound of our own voices in the Church was got over, many availed themselves of permission to seek further information. Although we were an audience of about fifty, I do wish the matter had been more widely known and that many of the poorer classes had been present. Some women tell you 'Oh! it is the will of God' when sorrow has come to their homes through their dirt or neglect of their little ones; or, again 'Sure they are the better of having it young,' when you try to make them take ordinary precautions in cases of measles, scarlatina, etc., etc. They would have heard the other night how much better these diseases can be resisted when the child has passed infancy. I have long thought information on these subjects badly needed, and I do hope, now you have made a beginning, that you will go on and give us a series of lectures on different subjects."

"One of the audience" at the same meeting, writes:—"The lecturer began by telling of the sad mortality in children under two years of age, which was mostly due to the ignorance, and in some cases negligence of mothers with regard to the proper treatment of infants. She, being a medical practitioner herself, spoke from experience and a thorough knowledge of her subject. The audience, which was composed entirely of women, seemed to appreciate the lecture and applauded several times. At the close one or two questions were asked to which the lecturer replied in a most satisfactory way, and thus ended a most profitable and enjoyable lecture."

Domestic Mission, Belfast—Mrs. Drummond who presided over the meeting, writes:—"I may say that I was very favourably impressed by the lecture. There were about sixty present in the audience, both women and girls. The girls were mostly those belonging to the Girls' Club at the Mission, and I noticed that these were much interested in the lecture, but indeed so was everybody. Miss Sproull spoke very simply and directly, and what she said cannot fail to do good if only her audience will remember it and act up to it. At the end of the lecture she said she would be glad to answer any questions that anyone might like to ask, but only one person ventured to do so. I think the lectures are doing a good work, but what we want is to get hold of more people to go to them—mill girls for instance, with whom our Churches in Belfast are not much in touch."

Larne—Miss Moore writes:—"The lectures delivered by Dr. Eleanor Sproull were most interesting and instructive, especially the second one, which I considered more general and suitable to every class, and all were delighted with it. Dr. Sproull spoke very distinctly, and her language was so simple that there was no difficulty in following her discourse; and her unassuming manner made it very pleasant to listen to her. No doubt lectures like these would be very beneficial to a certain class of people if only they could be got to attend. But that seems impossible. Our audience here consisted chiefly of the more educated and enlightened, although we tried to get some to attend who have had fewer advantages as regards education and refinement."

Dunmurry—Miss Roberts and Miss Kelly write:—"As regards Dr. Sproull's lecture given in the Courthouse here on 'The Care of Children," we were favourably impressed by it and think the work should be carried on. Dr. Sproull is a most capable lecturer, and expresses herself most clearly. The instruction we thought useful, but more for a higher class of people than was intended. There were thirty people present, but if another lecture of a similar nature were given there would be a much larger audience."

Belfast—Mrs. Robt. Campbell writes:—"The lecturer pointed out that the high infantile mortality of the present time is due largely to preventible causes, such as bad or improper feeding, and a want of attention to sanitary arrangements. Dr. Sproull showed how very often through the ignorance of a young mother or nurse, a fine healthy baby wasted away in a few weeks, or died suddenly of convulsions as the result of improper feeding. She also gave some very clear and simple directions as to the food and hygiene necessary for the well-being of infants and young children. These directions were so simple that the poorest mother could easily carry them out. The lectures should be of the greatest value to mothers and to those in charge of young children, as Dr. Sproull not only gave instructions as to food, fresh air, &c., but also directions as to suitable clothing and education."

Ballyclare—Mrs. Fielding writes:—"A very interesting lecture on 'The Responsibilities of Womanhood' was delivered in our Church on 29th May, by Dr. Sproull, to an appreciative audience of ladies. Dr. Sproull in a clear and interesting manner succeeded in holding the attention of her audience from start to finish, and many of those present before leaving expressed their pleasure in being present and thanked the lecturer for the information she had so interestingly imparted. Mrs. Bulmer moved a vote of thanks which Mrs. Forsythe seconded. There were fifty-eight ladies present."

Dromore—Miss Tillie Miniss writes:—"We had a most excellent lecture by Dr. Sproull on 'The Care of Children.' I am quite sure that everyone carried away a great deal of information which would be most useful. Dr. Sproull gave her lecture from a few notes in a very clear and able manner and seemed a perfect master of her subject. It was listened to by a most attentive audience numbering over seventy-five, which would have been much larger but for the inclement evening. We at Dromore consider you are doing a good work in enabling women of all classes to gain so much useful and necessary information in such a pleasant way." Miss Jardine also wrote a kind appreciation of the lecture given in Dromore.

In addition to the foregoing the lectures were delivered also at Mountpottinger and Newtownards.

A FREE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY.

Seeing that we in this district have recently re-affirmed the principle of Non-subscription, or freedom from theological tests, it may interest our readers to learn something of a modern university which makes the same great principle all-important in its plan of study for theological degrees. Three years ago the Victoria University of Manchester added to its other departments of higher education, one which tried to meet the needs of the student of divinity. Prior to that time such needs had been recognised by the denominations to which the respective students belonged,

and hence there had come into existence no less than nine denominational colleges, Baptist, Wesleyan, Congregational, Primitive Methodist, Unitarian, and the like. While all these had done splendid work, they were of necessity subject to very serious limitations. Possessed of limited financial resources, they were compelled for reasons of economy to entrust the whole of their theological training to a very small staff of teachers, and could therefore not expect that a man who had charge of several different subjects should be a specialist in each. Yet, at the same time, while thus seriously hampered from that point of view, each of these different colleges was attempting to cover pretty much the same ground, with the consequent duplicating of courses which this entailed. Hence the Victoria University said in effect to the governing bodies of the various colleges:—"Send your theological students to us, and we will place at their disposal professors who are specialists in the chief departments of theological study, Hebrew, New Testament Greek, History of Doctrine, Ecclesiastical History, Biblical Criticism and Exegesis, &c. That is to say, the University authorities sought in place of the overlapping of courses and differing standards of scholarship to substitute a systematic and uniform plan of theological study, open to the students of every denomination, and demanding, not uniformity of theological opinion, but accuracy of theological information. A particular student's tenets might be orthodox or heterodox, that, however, was his own concern. The only matter of importance to the University would be, is his actual knowledge sufficiently adequate and accurate to satisfy the standard we demand from all students alike, be they Trinitarian or Unitarian, Wesleyan or Presbyterian? If the answer to that question be satisfactory, provided that before submitting himself to examination, each student shall have attended for not less than two years certain specified courses of theological study, the approval of the University is shown by the granting of the degree of B.D. But further, in order to make co-operation between the different denominational colleges still more close and cordial, the Principal of each college has a place on the Governing Body of the Theological Faculty of the University. Thus, for example, the Rev. Alex. Gordon, M.A., as Principal of the Unitarian Home Missionary College, has a seat on that body, and his advice and counsel are constantly at the service of the University, while his presence in a representative capacity is a guarantee that the rights of Unitarian students are not likely to be overlooked. But so long as the fundamental principle of Freedom is maintained there is little likelihood that the rights of any body of students will be ignored, and so far the scheme has worked both admirably and amicably. This is apparent in the actual examination results, which in themselves testify to the complete absence of anything savouring of theological bias. Since the inauguration of the Free Faculty of Theology about half-a-dozen students have satisfied the examiners. They are thus differentiated in accordance with the colleges to which they belonged: one Methodist Free Church, one Moravian, one Congregational, one Methodist New Connexion, two Unitarians. It will therefore be apparent that our own community has been quick to avail itself of the advantages of theological freedom, and by encouraging its own students to attend the University courses, has gained the satisfaction of being well represented in the results so far obtained.

DEATH OF MRS. RANKIN.

It is with sorrowful regret we place on record the death of Mrs. Rankin, who passed away on the 24th June last, at Rocklands, Kirkcubbin, in the Co. Down. Mrs. Rankin suffered from a long and painful illness, but through it all she manifested a fine faith and hope and Christian fortitude. At times she rallied and then it seemed as if she might be spared a little longer to those near and dear to her; but these times were followed by relapses, when it became evident the end could not be far away. She was born at Ravara, where her father, the late Rev. John M'Caw, was

minister, but it was from Killinchy, where the family subsequently settled, that, when she grew up she was married to Mr. Jas. Rankin. As a bride she went to live at Hollypark, on the Killinchy side of Strangford Lough, but on the death of Dr. Rankin, her father-in-law, they moved back to the old home in Kirkcubbin, over which she always presided with rare kindness and hospitality. Though deeply interested in the welfare of her own Church, she nevertheless earned the regard and esteem of all creeds and classes in the community, and now that she has passed hence to the fuller life those whom she has left behind have the sympathy of all to whom she was known.

In placing together these few words in memory of a kind friend departed, one calls to mind what one has heard, if not seen, of the late Rev. John M'Caw, of Killinchy. Above all things a pastor and a faithful friend to his people. Such is the memory that survives of him. He entered the Old Belfast College, where he obtained his General Certificate, equivalent to a Master's degree, in days when the only University in Ireland was that in connection with Trinity College, Dublin, and where it was impossible then to present oneself for graduation without first signing the Thirty-Nine Articles.

REPORTS.

Belfast: First Presbyterian Church.—It will be noticed with pleasure by many friends that Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., has recently gained his B.D. degree at the Victoria University of Manchester. As may be seen in another column, the Free Faculty of Theology in connection with the University is at the beginning of its career, and it is gratifying to find that out of six degrees already conferred, two have been gained by Unitarians. We congratulate Mr. Rossington on having brought one of the two to Belfast.

The newly appointed organist of the above Church is Mr. Arthur Davis, who hails from West Bromwich, a town near Birmingham, in Staffordshire, England. Mr. Davis is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and has also passed the Arts Examination for the Degree of Musical Bachelor of the University of Oxford. He studied the organ under Mr. C. W. Perkins, organist of Birmingham Town Hall, and Mr. W. F. Newey, Professor of Music, Birmingham Institute School of Music, and late of Leipzig Conservatoire, Germany. In his native country, Mr. Davis was greatly in demand for Organ Recitals, Oratorios, etc. His last appointment in England was that of organist and director of the Choir of Langley Parish Church, where his monthly organ recitals were greatly appreciated. Previous to this he was assistant organist to Dr. W. John Reynolds, organist and choirmaster of Birmingham Parish Church.

Cairncastle.—On Sunday, July 21st, the Service in the Old Meeting House (Rev. F. Thomas's) was conducted by the Rev. W. H. Drummond, B.A., All Souls' Church, Belfast, who preached an eloquent sermon from Matt. vi., 9. Miss Mollie Austin, who was in fine voice, rendered the solo, "O Rest in the Lord," most charmingly. Miss Isa M'Ninch presided at the organ. The collection taken up in aid of the Sunday School Fund amounted to £9 6s. 7d.

Dromore.—The Annual Excursion of the Sunday School was held on Thursday, June 27th. 160 scholars assembled in the schoolroom at 10 o'clock, and, after forming in procession, marched through the town to the station, where a special train was in readiness to take them to Newcastle. Rain fell, of course, but not continuously as was feared—Jupiter Pluvius being content to shake his watering can occasionally, though never very vigorously; and, at intervals, from out the grey, leaden clouds came welcome glimpses of sunshine. The day was, on the whole, a decided success and thoroughly enjoyed—to judge from the remarks that dropped from the lips of both old and young as they wended their steps homewards. "How did you like the day?" "Grand!" was the reply of one yonngster, and similar expressions were heard on every side.

Glenarm.—On Sunday, 7th July, this sacred edifice was re-opened for divine worship, after having undergone many needful repairs. The preacher on the occasion was the Rev. J. A. Kelly, Dunmurry, who took for his text Hebrews viii., 13. A special collection was taken up after the sermon, at which Messrs. Jas. Morrow, J.P., Ulster Bank, Larne; Patrick Crawford, Saml. Magill, James Tweed, solicitor, and others assisted. The worthy minister, Rev. J. A. Miskimmin, at the conclusion was able to make the gratifying announcement that they stood there that day entirely free of debt, and had a small surplus to the good. The recent renovation gives to this sacred building a pleasing and attractive appearance. The old and dilapidated whitewash on the outside has given way to a neat square concrete finish all round. A new porch, which is a necessary adjunct, has been erected at the western end, and on entering here the first thing attracting notice is a tablet of polished marble, the gift of Mr. James Morrow, bearing the names of all the clergymen who officiated here as ministers from the foundation of the Church till the present time, with the dates of their ordination till their death or resignation. Mr. Miskimmin announced that Mrs. Morrow, Ulster Bank House, Larne, had very kindly presented a rich silk gown for the use of the ministers of the old Meeting-house. To that lady and her worthy husband our best thanks are due for the great interest they have taken in our congregational affairs. We have also to thank the Rev. Mr. Kelly for his kind and acceptable services, the gentlemen who kindly acted as collectors, and all who helped to place us in a good financial position.

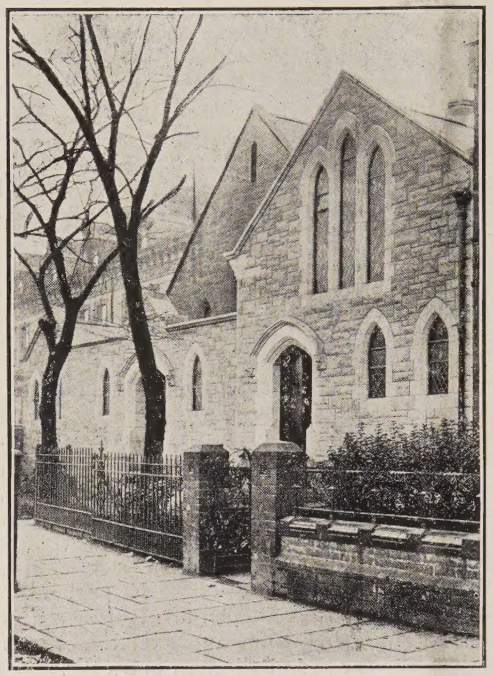
Larne.—The annual excursion of Larne Sunday-School pupils and teachers came off with much satisfaction and enjoyment on Friday, July 5, when a large party drove to Garron Tower. Shortly after nine o'clock M'Neill's conveyances, with horses in splendid trim, were drawn up at the manse gate, and by ten o'clock, as the long line of brakes, crowded with youngsters, cheering loudly in anticipation of the day's fun, proceeded on through Main Street, the clouds lifted and the weather kept steady for the remainder of the day. Like all things truly beautiful, the scenery along the Coast Road to the Tower always appears fresh and new. The Tower was reached about one o'clock, when all the party felt inclined to admire the beauties of well-covered tables, and cheerful, attentive waiters as much as fine scenery, and they were not disappointed. At five o'clock a second refreshment was served up to the young people, and at six all were again ready for the homeward journey. The cheers of the party as they drove through the town on their arrival home showed that the trip had been thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. The safety and care of the children were attended to by Rev. Mr. Kennedy, who was assisted by the Sunday-School teachers—Mr. and Mrs. M'Keone, Miss M'Quoid, Miss Moore, Miss Gledhill, Miss J. Gledhill, Miss Nelson, Miss M'Ninch, Miss M'Kee, Mr. Kelliher, and Mr. Wright—to whose exertions much of the success of the trip is owing.

Mountpottinger. — We were favoured with a very delightful day for our Scholars' Excursion to Groomsport on Saturday, June 29th. Report says that it rained everywhere else on that day. At Groomsport the sun shone brilliantly. The children say (and they are the judges) it was the best pic-nic we have had. They paddled in the sea, roamed on the rocks, and the bolder spirits amongst them even ventured out in boats. There was much vigorous digging in the sand, and we believe the sale of buckets and spades on a single day in Groomsport was unprecedented! The usual sports were held during the afternoon, and most of the competitors gained a prize.

Marriage.

FULLERTON—ROBINSON—On July 17th, at the Old Meeting House, Cairncastle, by the Rev. Frederic Thomas, William, eldest son of the late William Fullerton, Ballysnodd, to Isabella, third daughter of Thomas Robinson, Sallagh, Cairncastle.

Printed by J. W. Boyd, 44 & 46, North Street, Belfast. May also be had from Miss M'Caw, the Depository, Rosemary Street, Belfast; and from Rev. A. Turner, Templepatrick, to whom all communications respecting the Magazine should be addressed.



Mountpottinger UNITARIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES
AT 11-30 A.M. AND 7 P.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL
AT 10-15 A.M. AND 3 P.M.

Minister:
REV. J. WORTHINGTON, B.A.,
15, College Gardens.

Secretary:
DR. R. JACKSON MUNN,
Woodstock Road.

Treasurer:
MR. HENRY NAPIER.
Earlswood Road.

SEEKING truth and the mind of Christ, we unite for the worship of God and the service of man.

August, 1907.

4	S	M— E—	REV. JOSEPH GEARY of Killinchy.
11	S	M— E—	Usual Services conducted by THE MINISTER.
18	S	M— E—	MR. HUGH WARNOCK.
25	S	M— E—	MR. HUGH WARNOCK.

Silver Collections on the first Sunday in the month.

Church Committee meets on the last Sunday in the month after Morning Service.

School Committee on the second Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Choir Practice every Thursday at 8 p.m.

The Services for the month are the Fourth in the morning and Second in the evening.

Minister's Notes.

I shall be away on holidays on Aug. 18, 25, Sept. 1 and 8. Mr. Warnock, who has now completed his college course, will conduct the services on Aug. 18 and 25, and Mr. W. T. Davies, a student from the college in Manchester, on Sept. 1 & 8. I am sure you will give a hearty welcome to both.

I have been asked to say that a tennis club has been formed, with Miss J. Hanna as secretary, Miss Donnen as treasurer, and a membership fee of 1/-. Those who wish to share the privileges of membership should inform one of these ladies at once.

Why organise our Churches into one Church Body? is a question being asked just now. Why not remain as we are, isolated and independent? We may answer these questions by one or two others. Why should we remain unorganised when so much is to be gained and nothing lost by organisation? Why should our Churches stand apart from one another when we are all fighting the same battle? Why, when we all dissent from "orthodoxy" for one and the same reason, should we not make that the ground for uniting? If we have principles worth fighting for, why should we not present a united front and show that we mean business? There *are* great principles at stake—especially the principle of religious freedom—and it is nothing less than a sin to be indifferent about them.

I shall esteem it a favour to be informed of cases of sickness or of other occasions which call for a special pastoral visit.